

## REMARKS

The applicant has carefully considered the Office action dated December 9, 2005, and the references cited therein. As an initial matter, applicant notes that claims 14 – 44 stand allowed and, thus, will not be discussed further herein. By way of this response, claims 1 and 8 have been amended. In view of the following, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Turning to the art rejections, the Office action rejected claims 1 and 8 as being unpatentable over Albonesi et al. (US 5,113,514) in view of Anonymous Disclosure (IPCOM000010890D). The applicant respectfully traverses each rejection.

Currently amended independent claims 1 and 8 recite, among other things, the enhanced exclusive state indicates a copy of a cache line is in the first cache in a modified state and that the cache line in the second cache is unmodified. It is respectfully submitted that no such cache line state is disclosed or suggested by any combination of the cited art.

Albonesi et al. disclose a modified cache block (presumably a cache state) in which data exists in only one secondary cache (presumably the second cache) and possibly the associated operand cache (presumably the first cache) and that it has previously been modified such that the data in the secondary cache and/or the operand cache will be inconsistent with the corresponding main memory (i.e., the secondary cache and/or the operand cache are modified with respect to the main memory) (Col. 9 Lines 7-13).

As noted above, claims 1 and 8 recite an enhanced exclusive cache state where the cache line in the first cache is modified, but the cache line in the second cache is not modified. However, the modified cache block of Albonesi et al. is different from the enhanced exclusive state. In particular, the claimed enhanced exclusive cache state and the modified cache state of Albonesi et al. differ because these two cache states result in different outputs for at least some sets of input conditions and, thus, represent technically different

states. Consider an example in which the cache line in the first and the second caches are both in a modified state. The system of Albonesi et al., when operating under these conditions, results in a modified cache state. However, under the same operating conditions, the operation of claims 1 and 8 do not result in the enhanced exclusive state. Clearly, the modified cache state of Albonesi et al. and the claimed enhanced exclusive cache state are not equivalent and not interchangeable because they operate differently.

This deficiency in Albonesi et al. is not rectified by the Anonymous Disclosure, nor does the Office action cite the Anonymous Disclosure for this purpose.

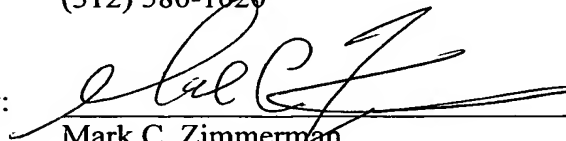
Because Albonesi et al. and the Anonymous Disclosure fail to disclose the enhanced exclusive cache state recited in claims 1 and 8, it follows that no combination of these references can result in the claimed combination. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 8 and all claims depending therefrom are in condition for allowance.

If the examiner is of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this case, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number identified below.

Respectfully submitted,

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**February 21, 2006**